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SURVEY *of* CURRENT BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Price Indexes for Selected Semiconductors, 1974–96



SURVEY of CURRENT BUSINESS

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It incorporates data from the following monthly BEA news releases:

U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services (January 21),
Gross Domestic Product (January 30), and
Personal Income and Outlays (February 2).

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In the most recent comprehensive revision of the NIPA's, BEA introduced new quality-adjusted price indexes for semiconductors. This article discusses these indexes, which incorporated the results from hedonic regressions based on performance characteristics of seven types of memory chips and two lines of microprocessors and which are designed to address the biases that are associated with conventional measures of real output for high-tech goods. As was noted when they were first introduced, the effect of incorporating the new price indexes into the NIPA's was to steepen the rate of decline in the prices of exports and imports of semiconductors and to raise the rates of real growth.

Regular features

1 Business Situation

Real GDP increased 4.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 1997, up from a 3.1-percent increase in the third quarter. The price index for gross domestic purchases increased 1.5 percent after increasing 1.3 percent. For the year 1997, real GDP grew 3.8 percent, the highest growth rate since 1988. The price index for gross domestic purchases increased 1.7 percent, the slowest increase since 1964. The personal saving rate declined to 3.8 percent, the lowest rate since 1939.

25 Personal Income by State and Region, Third Quarter 1997

Personal income in the Nation increased \$77.8 billion, or 1.1 percent, in the third quarter of 1997. Most of the increase was accounted for by the Southeast, Far West, and Mideast regions. Utah, Washington, and Idaho had the fastest growth in personal income in the third quarter.

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- ✿ ***Manufacturing Earnings in BEA Component Economic Areas.*** An article that analyzes the differences in manufacturing earnings per job among components of the BEA Economic Areas will appear in a forthcoming issue of the SURVEY. The article analyzes the differences on the basis of such characteristics as industry mix, extent of industry clustering, education levels of the labor force, and population levels.
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BEA INFORMATION

The economic information prepared by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) is available in news releases, in publications, on computer diskettes, on CD-ROM's, and on the Internet. For a description of these products in the free *User's Guide to BEA Information*, write to the Public Information Office, BE-53, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, or call (202) 606-9900. The *User's Guide* and other information are also available on BEA's home page at <http://www.bea.doc.gov>.

In addition, the following publications are available from the Superintendent of Documents of the Government Printing Office (GPO). To order, write to Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, call (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250. Pay by check to the Superintendent of Documents or charge to a GPO deposit account, to VISA, or to MasterCard.

Benchmark Input-Output Accounts of the United States, 1987. (1994) Presents summary and detailed make and use tables for industries and commodities; tables showing commodity- and industry-output-requirements per dollar of commodity demanded; and tables showing the input-output (I-O) commodity composition of personal consumption expenditures and producers' durable equipment expenditures in the national income and product accounts. Presents concepts and methods used in the 1987 benchmark accounts; concordance between I-O and 1987 Standard Industrial Classification codes; description of the components of the measures of output, intermediate inputs, and value added; and mathematical derivation of total requirements tables. (468 pages) \$29.00, stock no. 003-010-00251-4.

Regional Multipliers: A User Handbook for the Regional Input-Output Modeling System (RIMS II), Third Edition. (1997) This handbook describes the five types of RIMS II multipliers that are available for nearly 500 industries and for any county or for any group of counties. It details the information that the users need in order to effectively use the RIMS II multipliers to analyze the economic and industrial impact of public and private projects and programs on State and local areas. The handbook also includes case studies that illustrate the uses of the RIMS II multipliers and a description of the methodology that the Bureau of Economic Analysis uses to estimate the multipliers. (63 pages) \$6.00, stock no. 003-010-00264-6.

State Personal Income, 1929-93. (1995) Presents detailed annual estimates for States and regions of personal income for 1929-93, including estimates of per capita personal income, personal income by major source, and earnings by industry. Also presents annual estimates of disposable personal income and per capita disposable personal income for 1948-93 and quarterly estimates of personal income for 1969-93. Provides information about the sources and methods used to prepare the estimates for 1987-93 and samples of all the detailed tables of personal income and employment that are available for regions, States, counties, and metropolitan areas. (444 pages) \$27.00, stock no. 003-010-00257-3.

Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: 1992 Benchmark Survey, Final Results. (1995) Presents detailed data on the financial structure and operations of U.S. affiliates of foreign direct investors, on the foreign direct investment position in the United States, and on the balance-of-payments transactions between U.S. affiliates and their foreign parent companies in 1992. Includes data for items, such as employment covered by collective bargaining agreements and merchandise trade by product and country of destination and origin, that are only collected in benchmark surveys. Benchmark surveys are conducted every 5 years and are BEA's most comprehensive surveys in terms of both the number of companies covered and the amount of information gathered. The data are classified by industry of affiliate and by country of ultimate beneficial owner, and selected data are classified by State. Provides information about the coverage, the concepts and definitions, and the

classifications used in the survey. (312 pages) \$20.00, stock no. 003-010-00259-0.

Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Operations of U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Companies. (1997) Two publications: One presents the revised estimates for 1994, and the other, the preliminary estimates for 1995 from BEA's annual surveys of the financial structure and operations of nonbank U.S. affiliates of foreign direct investors. The estimates are presented by industry of the U.S. affiliate and by country of the ultimate beneficial owner (UBO) and for selected estimates, by industry of UBO and by State. **Preliminary 1995 Estimates** (108 pages) \$8.50, stock no. 003-010-00268-9; **Revised 1994 Estimates** (108 pages) \$8.50, stock no. 003-010-00267-1.

Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Establishment Data for 1992. (1997) This publication, which presents the results of a project by BEA and the Bureau of the Census, provides the most recently available data on the number, employment, payroll, and shipments or sales of foreign-owned U.S. establishments in more than 800 industries at the Standard Industrial Classification four-digit level and by State and by country of owner. Presents additional information—such as data on value added, employee benefits, hourly wage rates of production workers, and expenditures for plant and equipment—for manufacturing establishments. (364 pages) \$28.00, stock no. 003-010-00265-4.

Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Establishment Data for Manufacturing, 1991. (1994) A joint effort by BEA and the Bureau of the Census. Presents the most recently available data for foreign-owned U.S. manufacturing establishments (plants) by detailed industry (up to 459 industries), by State, and by country of investor. Includes data on the number of plants, value added, shipments, employment, total employee compensation, employee benefits, the hourly wage rates of production workers, the cost of materials and energy used, inventories by stage of fabrication, and expenditures for new plant and equipment. (220 pages) \$14.00, stock no. 003-010-00250-6.

U.S. Direct Investment Abroad: 1994 Benchmark Survey, Preliminary Results. (1997) Presents preliminary results from the latest benchmark survey of the worldwide operations of U.S. multinational companies. Contains detailed 1994 data on the operations of U.S. parent companies and their foreign affiliates in 103 tables organized by country and by industry. (140 pages) \$14.00, stock no. 003-010-00263-8.

U.S. Direct Investment Abroad: Operations of U.S. Parent Companies and Their Foreign Affiliates, Preliminary 1995 Estimates. (1997) Provides revised results for 1995 from BEA's annual survey of the worldwide operations of U.S. multinational companies. Contains information on the financial structure and operations of U.S. parent companies and their foreign affiliates. Data are classified by country and industry of affiliate and by industry of U.S. parent. (116 pages) \$9.00, stock no. 003-010-00270-1.

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Subject

Release Date

U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, December 1997	* Feb. 19
Gross Domestic Product, 4th quarter 1997 (preliminary)	Feb. 27
Personal Income and Outlays, January 1998	Mar. 2
U.S. International Transactions, 4th quarter 1997	Mar. 12
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* Joint release by the Bureau of the Census and BEA.

For information, call (202) 606-9900, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.